

APPENDIX C

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ENHANCING EDUCATION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

PROPOSED GRANT PROGRAMS (DRAFT)

TITLE: TECHNOLOGY IN THE LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY CURRICULUM

Program Purpose/Statewide Goal(s):

The purpose of this three-year, limited competitive grant is to increase student achievement in Language Arts Literacy, provide ongoing professional development to classroom teachers in grades 3-5, and integrate technology into curriculum and instruction. This grant supports the following “purposes” of the federal educational technology program:

- Improve student achievement
- Increase access to technology particularly in high-need districts
- Integrate technology effectively into curriculum and instruction
- Enhance ongoing professional development
- Support the rigorous evaluation of programs

Abstract:

Teachers will participate in the LOTI survey throughout the three-year grant period to determine levels of technology implementation in the classroom, personal computer use and current instructional practices. The results will assist teachers and districts in planning future staff development for technology. Ongoing consultation with nonpublic schools is required. An outside evaluator will be hired such as Margaret Honey to assess student achievement, the impact of professional development, the link between teacher technology competencies and student achievement, etc.

Eligibility Narrative (Include rationale for limited or targeted types):

A high-need school district or an eligible local partnership are eligible to submit an application for this grant. An eligible local partnership consists of at least one high-need LEA and one of the following:

- a) A public or private nonprofit organization with demonstrated expertise in the application of educational technology in instruction.
- b) An LEA that can demonstrate that teachers in its schools are effectively integrating technology and proven teaching practices into instruction, based on a review of relevant research, and that the integration results in improvement in classroom instruction and in helping students meet challenging academic standards.

However, the focus of the grant must be on addressing the needs of the high-need LEA.

Target Population:

Classroom teachers in grades 3, 4 and 5 in a high-need district.

TITLE: DEVELOPMENT OF ON-LINE COURSES (DOC)

Program Purpose/Statewide Goal(s):

The purpose of this two year, limited competitive is to improve academic achievement through the use of technology in schools and integrate technology with teacher training and curriculum development to establish successful research-based instructional models. These goals will be achieved by the development, piloting, assessment and offering of a distance learning course by the LEAs. The school district is the lead agency for facilitating the grant-related activities and will collaborate with all involved partners.

Abstract

This program would involve the development and implementation of a distance learning course in an area of need as recognized by the partners in this project. Using a distance learning format or a combination of distance learning technologies to provide an online course would enhance the core curriculum content knowledge of teachers and/or students. This course would be accessible by students and/or teachers state-wide in the second year.

The high-need LEA must partner with another educational entity. The professional and technical needs may be met by the professional staff at the LEA level but could also be supported if necessary by higher education professionals and or the statewide Educational Technology Training Centers.

This grant will include a development year, a pilot year and then a statewide offering. Grant monies would be used to develop the curriculum; provide staff development (25%); meet the technological needs to support the course, assess student achievement and evaluate the effectiveness of the project.

Outcomes would include:

- Assist States and localities in implementing and supporting a comprehensive system that effectively uses technology in elementary and secondary schools to improve student academic achievement.
- Encourage establishment or expansion of initiatives (including those involving public-private partnerships) that are designed to increase access to technology, particularly in schools served by “high-need local educational agencies”.
- Assist States and localities in the acquisition, development, interconnection, implementation, improvement, and maintenance of an effective educational technology infrastructure in a manner that expands access of technology to students (particularly disadvantaged students) and teachers.
- Support initiatives that enable school personnel and administrators to integrate technology effectively into curriculum and instruction that are aligned with State standards, through such means as high-quality professional development programs.
- Enhance ongoing professional development for teachers, principals, and administrators by providing constant access to training and updated research in teaching and learning through electronic means.

- Support the development and use of electronic networks and other innovative methods, such as distance learning, to provide specialized or rigorous courses or curricula to students who would not otherwise have access to such information, particularly to those in geographically isolated regions.
- Support the rigorous evaluation of programs funded under the Ed Tech Act, particularly regarding the impact of these programs on student academic achievement, and ensure that the results are widely accessible through electronic means.

Eligibility:

This grant is open to all LEAs but limited to those LEAs designated by the department as high-need LEA. Applicants must certify that the application was developed in consultation with a partnering LEA.

Target Populations could include any or all of the following: Pre-school students, grades K-8, 9-12, adults, at-risk youth, individuals with disabilities, teachers.

TITLE: ACCESS – COLLABORATION – EQUITY (ACE) PLUS INSTRUCTION (ACE +) PROGRAM

Program Purpose/Statewide Goal(s):

The purpose of this 18-month, limited competitive grant is to close the “digital divide” -- the disparity between those who have access to technology and those who do not. This goal will be achieved by extending access to technology resources in a supervised setting for students in high-need school districts beyond the school day. The school district is the lead agency for facilitating the grant-related activities and will collaborate with community partners, businesses, municipalities, and statewide organizations. Equitable access to technology is to be provided in public locations such as libraries, community centers or urban housing -- for students, their families and other community members.

These funds will be used to create a two-tiered level of assistance. Each level will be a multi-year project with the first project beginning 5/1/03 through 4/30/2004.

1. Level one is designed for those LEAs that **were** awarded an Access~Collaboration~Equity grant in FY’2001, or that partnered with a LEA that was the lead agent in that grant program and established an ACE Center.
2. Level two is designed for LEAs that **were not** awarded an Access~Collaboration~Equity grant in FY’2001 and were not partners with a district awarded that grant program.

Outcomes include:

- Establishment or expansion of initiatives that are designed to increase access to technology, particularly in schools served by “high-need local educational agencies.”
- Implementing and supporting a comprehensive system that effectively uses technology in elementary and secondary schools to improve student academic achievement and increase time-on-task.
- Ongoing professional development for teachers, principals, administrators by providing constant access to training and updated research in teaching and learning through electronic means.
- Developing and use of electronic networks and other innovative methods to provide specialized or rigorous courses or curricula to students who would not otherwise have access to such information, particularly to those in geographically isolated regions.
- Promoting parent and family involvement in education and to enhance communication among students, parents and school personnel.
- Developing a business plan to show self-sustaining activities for at least two years beyond the grant program.
- Evaluating the students to determine the impact of the program on academic achievement.
- Developing a model curriculum-based Language Arts Literacy project that contributes to student achievement of the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Abstract

The existing ACE Centers will continue to provide the resources and services, but enhance the program with three main components that are required of the new ACE Centers as well. A focus on Language Arts Literacy as the instructional component used with students, developing a distance learning component, facilitating professional development for teachers, administrators and school personnel, and developing a end-of-the-year showcase of progress made throughout the grant period. Teachers from the school district will staff the ACE Center and be provided professional development and mentoring activities to use

In addition, the existing ACE Center will provide support and mentorship to the newly formed ACE Centers in partnership with the NJ Department of Education, Office of Educational Technology.

Year one is the planning year and year two is the year for implementation.

Requirements for program:

- Needs assessment to show what participants want to learn and times that are best for them.
- Evaluation of student achievement in Language Arts Literacy – one-year prior and all scores through present.
- Level two participants must target grades 7 and 8 for the Language Arts Literacy instructional component of the ACE Center.
- ACE Centers must develop web site that has documented the progress of the grant program over five years.
- Someone must be responsible for updating and monitoring the web site.
- Classrooms must have Internet connectivity.
- Schools must have AUP and certification forms on file.
- Technical and administrative support for technology must be part of the school culture and available as needed to assist in the implementation of this grant program.

Eligibility Narrative (Include rationale for limited or targeted types):

This grant is open to all LEAs but limited to those LEAs designated by the department as a high-need LEA. These funds will be used to create a two-tiered level of assistance. Each level will be a multi-year project with the first project beginning 5/1/03 through 4/30/2004.

- Level one is designed for those:
 - a. LEAs that **were** awarded an Access~Collaboration~Equity grant in FY'2001, or
 - b. that partnered with a LEA that was the lead agent in the grant program,
 - c. has advanced experience in providing services and resources to the community, and
 - d. that can exhibit a need to expand and enhance their projects.
- Level two is designed for LEAs that **were not** awarded an Access~Collaboration~Equity grant in FY'2001 and were not partners with a district awarded the grant program.

Both levels must:

- Be designated by the department as an LEA that is high-need;
- Will certify its application was developed in consultation with representatives from nonpublic schools.
- Develop partnerships that could include public libraries, community centers, and urban housing authorities, businesses, and statewide organizations such as the NJ Chamber of Commerce.

Target Population: Pre-school students, grades K-8, 9-12, adults, at-risk youth, individuals with disabilities, teachers, parents, administrators, nonpublic school students.